(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) After gaining experience from implementation of the CRZ Notification over a decade, Ministry is of the firm view that there is a need to ensure that the regulations are firmly founded on scientific principles to ensure effective protection of the coastal environmental resources. Accordingly, the Ministry constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. The broad recommendations of the Report have been accepted by the Ministry. One of the recommendations of the report includes preparation of CZMPs based on vulnerability of the coast to natural and man made hazards. The Central Government has already initiated steps for demarcation of the Vulnerability Line along the coastal areas.

National Policy on Food Processing

1881. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to bring out the National Policy on Food Processing;

(b) the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) what are the measures Government are taking to promote food processing sector in the country;

(d) what are the comprehensive guidelines issued by Government for project approvals;

(e) whether Government are considering to have a single window system for project approvals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy. The draft Policy envisages

inter alia creation of enabling environment, infrastructure development, possible measures for reduction in wastages, increase in level of processing, enhancement in value addition, generation of employment etc. The proposed Policy also seeks to develop linkages with farming system, which is helpful in production of processable variety and remunerative income to farmers. As formulation of policy involves consultation with concerned Ministries and other stakeholders, it is difficult to indicate the precise time limit by which the policy will be finalized.

(c) to (f) No approval of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is required for setting up of the food processing projects. However, a Plan Scheme has been implemented to provide financial assistance for establishment/modernization/expansion of the food processing industries. Under the scheme, assistance is released to the promoter of the project on usual terms conditions provided the project has been recommended by the concerned State Nodal Agency and found technically and commercially viable by the appraising bank/financial institution. Besides, several measures have been initiated by the Government from time to time for promotion of food processing industries. Such measures include exemption from payment of excise duty to fruit and vegetable processing units, exemption of most of the processed food items from purview of licensing under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1951, inclusion of FPI sector in the list of priority sector lending, provision of infrastructure and other schematic assistance etc. Recently in 2004-05 for giving boost to growth of food processing industries, Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Union Budget for 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg. on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg. on Vanaspati abolished and customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%.

Promotion of agri-business

1882. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently formulated a